

Gator Gazette

AIR FORCE RESERVE COMMAND → 917th WING, BARKSDALE AFB, LA → SEPTEMBER 2002

A man in a brown t-shirt, orange safety vest with reflective stripes, and camouflage pants stands on a tarmac at night. He is wearing large headphones and holding a baton in his right hand, which is raised high. The background shows airport lights and the tail of an aircraft.

917th Medical Squadron-
Medics sharpen skills

93rd Bomb Squadron-
Demobilization in progress

917th Logistics Support Squadron-
Member creates a 'racquet'

93rd Bomb Squadron: Member marshals an incoming B-52.

Looking ahead to future possibilities

There will be a lot said in the upcoming weeks about our lives as citizens and airmen over the last 12 months—a lot of reflecting on events, focusing on our accomplishments, and pondering of the future. No doubt a lot of us will question our relevance and even our continued participation in unit programs after having faced the challenges that come along with the delicate balance we must keep between commitment, families and employers.

In trying to focus on the future, I turn to a recent legislative update for some key issues that are currently on the table before our lawmakers for consideration. These issues are by no means law as of yet, but they offer encouragement and perhaps incentive as we try to shift our focus to what we hope will soon be the next phase.

Here is a sample of some of the actions pending. For more detail, check with our Public Affairs office or look them up on the internet.

- Reduce the qualifying service requirement to receive a reserve retirement. This would change the required service time in the reserve from eight to six years.

- Increase retired pay for enlisted reservists decorated for extraordinary heroism. This 10-percent increase in retired pay is only available to active duty at this time.

- Increase the reserve component prior-service enlistment bonus. This would give prior-service individuals who enlist in a critically undermanned career field an

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b o n u s
instead of
the current
\$5,000.

- Extend the Montgomery GI Bill eligibility period. The amount of time that reservists may utilize t h e i r b e n e f i t s

would increase from 10 to 14 years.

- Extend TRICARE Prime Remote coverage. This would allow coverage for dependents of members serving on active duty at a separate location from where the family members are residing.

- Reduce the age of receipt of military retired pay for non-regular service from 60 to 55.

Again, these are a few examples of actions being considered, and they are only presently under consideration and not yet law. They are, however, signs of encouragement and indications that our government is moving in the right direction regarding our well being as reservists.

Have a safe, productive September—the “real crew-chief” will be back in time for the next edition.



Col. Rick Volden
917th Operations
Group Commander

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Sept. 7

307 RHS Family Day

Oct. 5

Fitness walk and weigh-in

Nov. 2

Wing blood drive

Gatorfest

Employer Day

Dec. 7

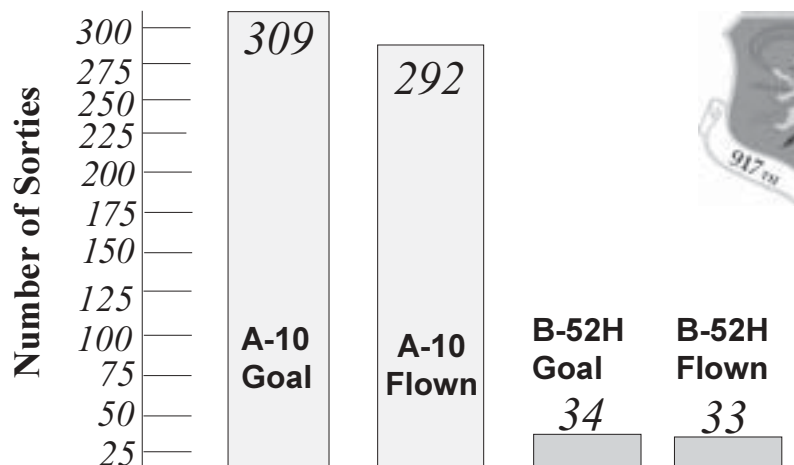
Wing Christmas Party

Jan. 11

Clergy Day

917th Wing Sortie Scoreboard

July 2002



A-10 Mission Capable Rate 86%

B-52H Mission Capable Rate 78.6%

AFRC Goal 75%

AFRC Goal 65%

Gator Gazette

917th Wing
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Front Cover Photo:

Staff Sgt. Bruce, 93rd Bomb Squadron crew chief, marshals a B-52 after a combat flight over Afghanistan. (Photo by Master Sgt. Jessica D'Aurizio)

Demobilization in progress

93rd Bomb Squadron adapts to change

Story by Master Sgt. Greg
93rd Bomb Squadron UPAR

As a nation cried for vengeance, citizen soldiers like myself and thousands of others, boarded aircraft...destinations—forward operating areas. The year following the worst attacks on America since Pearl Harbor has been a blur, but the horrific visions of that day will stay forever clear in my memory.

I received my activation orders for Operation Enduring Freedom only nine days after Sept. 11. Since then, I and more than 100 of my co-workers from the 93rd Bomb Squadron have been away from home eight months out of the year. Now deactivation is quickly approaching.

"It was a weird feeling being activated," said Tech. Sgt. Bob, 40th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron crew chief. "When I left active duty, I thought all my mobility days were behind me. To be a civilian one day and then activated the next had a stunning effect on me."

Being mobilized was unlike anything I'd ever experienced. Having all the comforts of home taken away is bad, but they were comforts I could live without. It was the people closest to me I left behind that I couldn't get out of my mind.

"It was a personal dilemma knowing what I was doing was for the sake of the freedoms that we know as Americans versus not wanting to leave behind my wife and kids for an unknown period of time," said Master Sgt. Kirk, 40 EBS specialist flight chief.

Looking back, I'm amazed at how quickly I went from standing in a mobility line to standing in an empty tent on foreign soil wondering what was going to happen next. It didn't take long to find out. On Oct. 7, we launched our first B-52s into combat over Afghanistan.

"We have proven, not only to the world but to all terrorists, that we are a force to be reckoned with," said Master Sgt. Dennis, 40 EBS production supervisor.

The first few months in the operating area were fast and furious for the bombers. I went to work every day, excited to do my job. To see a B-52 land with all its bombs dropped was an awesome sight. I looked forward to hearing about the bombing missions from the aircrew as they disembarked the aircraft.

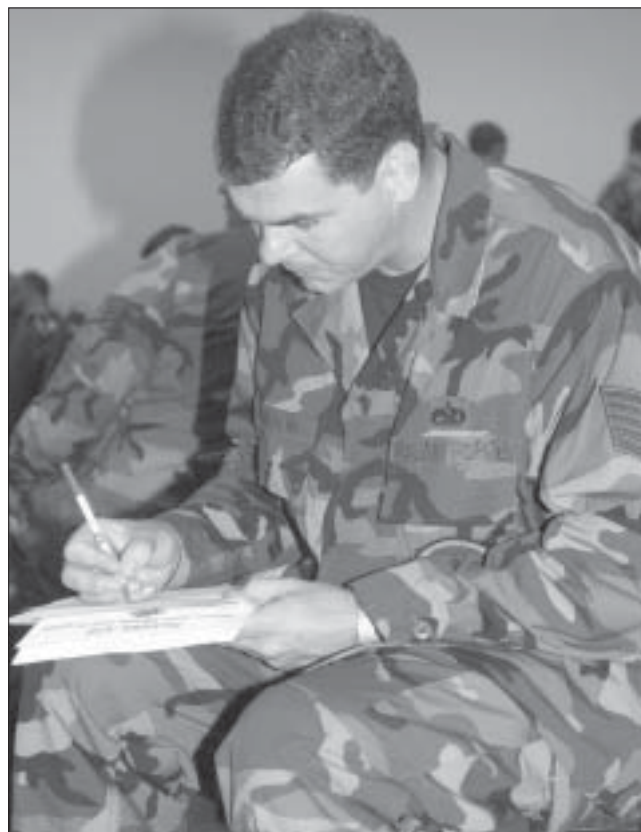


PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. JESSICA D'AURIZIO
Master Sgt. Johnnie, 93 BS weapons loader, fills out paperwork in September 2001, prior to his deploying in support of Operation Enduring Freedom.

"It was exciting to do ground-breaking work in the B-52, supporting U. S. and allied forces in the battle against the Taliban and al Qaeda," said Maj. Mark, B-52 electronic warfare officer.

"We would fly 15 to 17-hour missions, and it was exhausting," said Maj. Bill, B-52 pilot. "When you sit at home and watch television, you see all the crap happening and wish you could do something about it. When you can actually go and do something...that's cool."

For the first few months, the bombers dropped nearly 7,000 tons of munitions — damaging or destroying nearly three-quarters of the planned targets. As the months passed, the days seemed longer because the pace slowed drastically. Aircraft no longer returned with expended bombs. It seemed that the war was over for us. Although we still had a mission, it was hard to keep a sense of purpose and even harder not to think about family back home.

"I have a new granddaughter I haven't seen yet," said Tech. Sgt. Dale, 40 EBS electronic countermeasures specialist. "She was born a month after I deployed here."

93 BS continued on page 9

In the news.....

Wing Christmas party scheduled

All Wing personnel and their spouses are invited to this year's Wing Christmas party scheduled for Dec. 7 at the Horseshoe River Dome. The event will begin at 6 p.m. with a social hour, followed by a sit-down dinner at 7 p.m. A slide show and skit are set for 8 p.m., with a disc jockey and dancing until midnight.

Cost per person is \$28. Two cash bars will also be available. Dress is casual to semi-formal. Rooms at the hotel will be available at a reduced rate on the night of the party. Call 1-800-789-0711 and state you are a member of the Wing when making your reservation. Deadline for reservations is Nov. 7.

Tickets for the event may be purchased from the following squadron representatives: Senior Airman Christian Davis, and 2nd Lts. Nathan Holland and Brian Ozden, 93rd Bomb Squadron; Tech. Sgt. Joel Womack, 47th Fighter Squadron; Chief Master Sgt. Jack Mills, 917th Medical Squadron; Master Sgt. Pete Bretzman, 917th Logistics Group; 1st Lt. Warren Crabtree, 917th Maintenance Squadron; and Senior Master Sgt. Timothy Wooten, Det 1 307th RED HORSE Squadron. Tickets may also be purchased at the Public Affairs Office. Deadline to purchase tickets is Nov. 23. For more information, call the Public Affairs Office at 456-8145/9181.

Position available at RED HORSE

Due to realignment efforts, Det 1 307th RED HORSE Squadron recently gained an officer position. The Air Force Specialty Code is C036P3. The job title is squadron section commander with a military rank of major. This is a traditional reserve position.

The person in this position reports directly to the commander, works closely with the first sergeant, and supervises the orderly room and career advisor functions.

Interested personnel need to submit a resume (using guidelines published in *Tongue & Quill*) to Lt. Col. Steve McCutcheon, 307 RHS director of operations.

Inactive travel cards to be cancelled

The Government Travel Card Task Force recommended reducing the number of outstanding travel cards. Travel cards in the hands of individuals without legitimate need are an unnecessary administrative burden and can lead to potential misuse.

Effective immediately, Bank of America will not reissue travel cards for inactive accounts, cards which have not been used in the last 12 months.

All members should check the expiration date on their card and make sure it is in an active status prior to traveling. If you have any questions, call Billy Thorn at 456-9546.

Comm Flight looks to fill positions

The 917th Communications Flight has two openings for the position of ground radio communications apprentice, AFSC 2E1X1.

People interested must have a minimum score of 67 in the electronics area on the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery and must be willing to attend the 34-week technical school at Keesler Air Force Base, Miss. These are strictly reserve

positions. For more information, call Senior Master Sgt. Margaret Mayweather at 456-9859 or Master Sgt. Skip Matthews at 456-9414.

Come celebrate Barksdale 2002

Wing members and their families are invited to attend Celebrate Barksdale, an event held yearly to celebrate and honor the men and women of Barksdale AFB.

A picnic is scheduled on Sept. 4 from 11 a.m. until 2 p.m. at the open area behind the base exchange.

A day-long patriots celebration is scheduled on Sept. 7 from 10 a.m. until 10 p.m. at the outside parking area of the CenturyTel Center located at the end of Arthur Teague Parkway.

Live entertainment will be provided on two stages, along with static displays, a children's area and a fireworks show.

Cost is \$1. Children under the age of six get in free. For more information, call Lt. Col. Nathan Hines at 456-2635.

Transitional health care benefits improve for reservists

A recent change to health care benefits will be a big help for reservists who were mobilized in support of the war on terrorism.

Under the revised transitional health care benefit plan, reservists who were ordered to active duty for more than 30 days in support of a contingency and who have more than six years total active federal service are eligible for 120 days of health care following their period of active service.

Reservists with less than six years service will get 60 days of continued medical care. Family members are also covered under this plan. This program is retroactive to Jan. 1.

Eligibility for benefits will be determined by information in the Defense Enrollment Eligibility Reporting System. The Defense Manpower Data Center is sending a letter to members eligible for this benefit, but only if the information in DEERS reflects they have served in support of a contingency operation such as Operations Noble Eagle or Enduring Freedom.

Members and families who were enrolled in TRICARE Prime while the member was on active duty will automatically be disenrolled upon release from active duty. The reservist or family member must re-enroll if they wish to continue TRICARE Prime during the transitional health care period.

An enrollment form is available on the Web site <http://www.tricare.osd.mil>. No enrollment is necessary for TRICARE Standard or Extra.

Officer promotion system changes

Officers seeking a promotion to O-4 during the Oct. 3 promotion boards will find that the promotion opportunities, or the maximum number of individuals each board may select for promotion, are higher than in the past.

The promotion board for O-4 can now promote the number of officers equal to 95 percent of the number in the promotion zone for line officers, lawyers and medical service corps officers. That number is up from 90 percent during the last board.

Promotion opportunities for some competitive categories during the upcoming O-5 board will also increase.

Congressional Medal of Honor Convention September 10-12

Schedule of events

September 10

*Dinner with Mayors Keith
Hightower and George Dement*
6 p.m., Harrah's Hotel
Cost is \$50 per ticket

September 11

VFW Post 5971 Breakfast
7 a.m., Harrah's Hotel
Cost is \$25 per ticket

Luncheon at Barksdale AFB

Tony Orlando performs
MOH recipients attending
11:30 a.m., Hoban Hall
Cost is \$20 per ticket

Dinner

6 p.m., Harrah's Hotel
Cost is \$50 per ticket

Concert at the Strand Theatre
7:30 p.m., free-of-charge

September 12

Breakfast Buffet
7 a.m., Harrah's Hotel
Cost is \$25 per ticket

MIA/POW Luncheon
11:30 a.m., Bossier Civic
Center
Cost is \$25 per ticket

*Patriot Banquet honoring
retired Army Gen. H. Norman
Schwarzkopf*
6 p.m., Expo Convention Center
Cost is \$125 per ticket

Tickets are required for all events.
Call retired Col. Steve dePyssler at
456-4480 for more information.

Wing key spouse recognized for her volunteerism



PHOTO BY MASTER SGT. JESSICA D'AURIZIO

Barksdale AFB awarded the Volunteer of the Quarter Award to Michelle, wife of Maj. Steve, 93rd Bomb Squadron electronic warfare officer, and key-spouse volunteer. Michelle is seen here greeting her husband returning from his first deployment in support of the war on terrorism.

Reservists join 917th Wing

Seven new reservists joined the 917th Wing. They will attend the newcomers' briefing and then join their respective squadrons.

917th Medical Squadron

Tech. Sgt. Michael Noyola

93rd Bomb Squadron

Staff Sgt. Adrian Monzingo

917th Logistics Support Squadron

Staff Sgt. Shannon Meon

917th Security Forces Squadron

Senior Airman Patrick Reid

307th RED HORSE Squadron

Staff Sgt. Richard Coates, Jr.

917th Wing

Airman 1st Class Ebony Nichols
Staff Sgt. Kim Warren

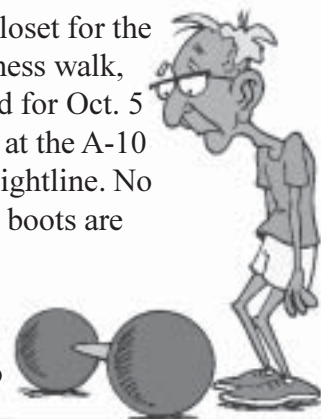
Fitness walk scheduled for October UTA

It's time once again to pull the sneakers out of the dark recesses of your closet for the Wing fitness walk, scheduled for Oct. 5 at 2 p.m. at the A-10 hangar/flightline. No BDUs or boots are allowed.

If you are unable to walk in

October, make-up walks are scheduled for the November and December unit training assemblies on Saturday at 2 p.m.

Location of the make-up walks will be announced at a later date.



Medics sharpen skills

Technicians use training to remain wartime-mission ready

Story and photos by Betty Stephens
Wing Public Affairs

Annual tour training for 18 medical technicians was no vacation. In July, the 917th Medical Squadron deployed to the 81st Medical Center, Keesler Air Force Base, Miss.

Known as the second largest medical center in the Air Force, the 81st Medical Group consists of five functional squadrons under its operation: medical and surgical operations, aerospace

medicine, medical support and dental. Their primary mission is medical readiness.

"Our main concern is that our technicians in each of these areas receive all the training they can," said Maj. Karen Chin, 917 MDS surgical nurse. The 81st Medical Group is responsible for nearly 500 training courses both locally and at other bases. On an average day, Keesler supports nearly 4,100 students.

"It is a real challenging two-week training period," said

Master Sgt. Orlisa Johnson, 917 MDS medical services attendant. "With this being a training facility, we have to be aggressive to get our training with the regular students."

Each year, the 917 MDS deploys for annual tour to a government medical facility for training. At Keesler, they were able to blend in with the regular students to get some extra training. Aside from the many medical duties performed, the personnel also made sure equipment was up to par and supplies were in place.

Packaging supplies for a humanitarian deployment to South America was a necessary part of the training for Staff Sgt. Faye May, 917 MDS pharmacy assistant. She said working in the pharmacy is challenging because duties not only consist of filling prescriptions but also compounding, tracking supplies and much more.

"You have to be on your toes, because you can hurt somebody if the wrong medicine is given," May said.

Two of the squadron laboratory technicians, Tech. Sgt. Vikki Mays and Staff Sgt. Jason Logan, assisted in transporting and setting up the portable lab and drew blood at the 81st Communication Squadron for a mandatory blood drive on July 9. The base sends 28 units of blood monthly to the Armed Services Whole Blood Processing Laboratory at McGuire AFB, N.J. It is used for Armed Forces emergency situations.

"This unit must ship the required units of blood monthly. If it can't be acquired from volun-



Col. Raymond Baumgardner, 917th Medical Squadron dentist, repairs a patient's cracked tooth while on annual tour at the dental clinic at Keesler AFB, Miss., in July.

teers — given during the two weekly blood drives — it has to be purchased from the Red Cross,” said Johnny Maddux, blood bank technician. On that particular day, they drew 10 units in the first four hours.

“There is plenty to learn and do here,” said Chin. Requirements for surgery include sterilizing all instruments, scrubbing, preparing the area, and prepping and positioning the patient for the procedure. All the instruments have to be accounted for, both before and after the procedure, even the sponges.

Keeping the electronic equipment up and running was one of the duties of 1st Lt. Todd Johnson, 917 MDS health services administrator. Senior Airman Michael Root, 917 MDS biomedical equipment repairman, gained hands-on experience removing, repairing and re-installing equipment. Tech. Sgt. Michael Briery, 917 MDS material clerk, became more accustomed to the task of receiving, storing and ordering supplies.

Maj. Corine Barral, 917 MDS surgical nurse, said, “Much of the training received would be impossible at home base because we do not have it (the services) available unless we contract out to local hospitals. This group helps to make up the Wing’s wartime surgical package, and the training we receive makes us wartime-mission ready.”

Senior Airman Erskin McAllister, 917 MDS medical services attendant, checks a patient's vital signs in the postoperative unit.



Staff Sgt. Jason Logan, 917 MDS medical laboratory assistant, draws blood from a donor during a blood drive held at the 81st Communication Squadron.



1st. Lt. Todd Johnson, 917 MDS health services administrator, removes a computer from a shelf for repair.

917 CES helps active duty with base repairs

Story by Staff Sgt. Shannon Collins
Wing Public Affairs

As another air expeditionary force rotation heads out, civil service contractors look around their minimum-manned office. As more and more airmen get tasked to deploy, the work orders for repairs stack up.

One team decided to lend their knowledge and tools to help.

A 28-man team of electricians, plumbers, heavy equipment operators, heating, ventilation and air conditioning workers and structural carpenters with the 917th Civil Engineer Squadron headed to Seymour Johnson AFB, N.C., in May to help reduce the work orders and gain more training. Most of the work orders were backlogged as much as three years.

"They had so many people deployed and got behind in their work," said Tech. Sgt. Tom Taron, 917 CES HVAC journeyman. "We got them caught up to a point where they could manage their workload."

The first task the team tackled was a 100 ft. sidewalk for one of the squadrons. The crews then split into their areas of expertise.

The HVAC airmen fixed air-conditioning units and repaired a boiler for the base daycare center, so the children could have heat in the fall. The electricians helped set poles and worked on circuits, while structural carpenters took down a moldy wall, put up a new one, and wallpapered it.



PHOTOS BY MASTER SGT. STANLEY HUFF

Members of the 917th Civil Engineer Squadron (From left to right: Staff Sgts. Darren Mixon and Richard Harris, Senior Master Sgt. Charles Hensley and Staff Sgt. Roy Stockinger) landscape a sidewalk they poured while at Seymour-Johnson AFB, N.C.

Master Stanely Huff, 917 CES first sergeant, said it was important for the airmen to have the chance to work in their skill levels.

"Training is the key part in everything," he said.

"Watching videos on a unit training assembly doesn't give you the same training as doing it hands-on in the field," said Senior Airman Jeff Seguin, 917 CES structural carpenter, who works construction as a civilian. "I brought the skills I picked up from my civilian job, and I also learned a lot from the active-duty airmen and my fellow reservists."

The reservists, from the rank of senior airman to senior master sergeant, worked side by side with the civil service civilians and young active-duty airmen. Huff said he thinks it is a good idea for senior supervisors to go out and work closely with their troops.

"It shows them that you care, that you know what's going on, and know what their problems are," said Huff. "Plus, we all work as a team, and it reflects on the unit as a job well done. That is what we strive for."

Huff said the team works well together and is more than willing to help out bases when they need help.

"When it has to be done, we can do it," said Huff. "It's great to go out and do a job like this. It's a sense of self-satisfaction to know you were able to accomplish something and help somebody."



Staff Sgt. Bobby Giddens and Master Sgt. Dwain Gerace, 917 CES pavement construction equipment operators, dig the footing to build a sidewalk.

Jantz creates a 'racquet'

Reservist uses life-long experience to win sectionals, hopes to win nationals

**Story and photo by Staff Sgt. Shannon Collins
Wing Public Affairs**

Kenneth Jantz knows the love of a sport and the fierceness of competition. He has spent his life playing and teaching the sport he loves most – tennis.

Recently Jantz, a technical sergeant with the 917th Logistics Group, reigned victorious after competing in the USA League Tennis Southern Sectional Championship, along with five other members of his senior division team, in Kentucky. They had already won local and state.

"Last year, we didn't have a shot. This year, I knew we really had a shot, and it doubled the pressure," Jantz said. "I think we have a chance at nationals. The competition will be real strong. Everyone competing is a tournament player and has probably played college tennis at one time or another, so everyone is on the same level. It's real competitive."

"We expected fierce competition at the sectional tournament, and we certainly encountered such. At nationals, I think our team will be one of two or three outstanding teams and very much in contention for the championship," said Hugh Rodriguez, team assistant captain.

Jantz and his team will compete in nationals in Palm Springs, Calif., on Oct. 24-27, and his wife, Karen, who he got into the sport, will compete at nationals with her team on Oct. 17-20. She said she was shocked that her team won sectionals, and she knew Jantz could make it to nationals.

"I am very proud of Ken," Karen said. "Most tennis pros quit playing because they can't compete at the same level they played at when they were younger. Ken loves to compete and loves tennis, so he makes adjustments to his game to compensate for his age. By keeping active in tennis, he is able to help other players by drawing from his years of experience as a player and coach as well as keeping himself challenged mentally and physically," she said.

Jantz is no stranger to national competition. He competed in nationals when he played for East Texas State University on a tennis scholarship. He lost in the semifinals in three sets in the singles division, but made "All American" at the university.

Jantz started playing tennis when he joined the Air Force in the 1960s. He played for the base team, who won their command competition four years-in-a-row. After a four-year hitch with the Air Force, he accepted a college tennis scholarship. After school, he started teaching full-time. He has taught tennis in the local area for more than 24 years. He decided to return to the blue 19 years ago and now teaches part-time.

All of Jantz's experience is what makes him an essential part of his senior team, said Rodriguez.

"He is a real asset to this team because of his experience,



Tech. Sgt. Kenneth Jantz, 917 LG maintenance analyst, returns a volley during a practice match. Jantz and his teammates will go to Palm Springs, Calif., in October to compete in the USA Tennis Association's nationals senior division.

talent and competitive spirit. He was instrumental in organizing and recruiting the team members. Jantz has the sheer talent and physical ability that is required to play tennis at this level," said Rodriguez.

Jantz said his love for the sport is what has kept him playing all these years.

"I love tennis. My wife's got the bug now, and she's never played sports before. It's something we enjoy together, and we can have fun. It's a good way to get exercise and hopefully stay off the weight program," he said and chuckled.

"Tennis is a lifetime sport. It's something you can compete at; it's something you can do no matter what age you are," said Jantz.

With a tight competition and a goal set to finally be accomplished, both Jantz and his wife head to Palm Springs, Calif., to compete in their senior divisions for the nationals – their secret weapon – their love for the sport.

.....93 BS continued from page 3

After being deployed for eight months, I feel tired and ready to get home. I'm looking forward to being next to the person I love and enjoying a somewhat normal life

again. When the plane finally lands back home and I step off into familiar surroundings, I know there will still be questions lingering in my mind, like how long it will be

before I'm activated again and whether I should even bother to unpack?

I've learned the hard way that freedom is not free.

Voices: What are your plans after demobilization?



Tech. Sgt. Albertus
40th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron

"I plan to get reacquainted with my family."



Tech. Sgt. Susan
40th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron

"I look forward to getting back to a normal life."



Tech. Sgt. Greg
40th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron

"I'm looking forward to getting back with my family and returning to my job."



Tech. Sgt. Zina
40th Expeditionary Bomb Squadron

"I look forward to being back with my kids and sleeping in my own bed."

Reemployment: Know what your rights are

Reservists who are demobilizing and reentering the workforce they left behind nearly a year ago have certain rights.

Under the Uniformed Services Employment and Reemployment Rights Act of 1994:

Returning service members must be reemployed in the job that they would have attained had they not been absent for military service with the same seniority, status and pay, as well as other rights and benefits determined by seniority.

Service members are eligible for leave under the Family and Medical Leave Act after working for a covered employer at least 12 months and at least 1,250 hours of work. This includes the time the service members would have worked had

they not been called to military duty.

Service members may be absent from their jobs for up to five years for military duty and still retain their reemployment rights. The exceptions to this rule include: (1) initial enlistments lasting more than five years, (2) periodic training duty and (3) involuntary active-duty extensions and recalls due to a war or national emergency.

Service members are deemed to be on a furlough or leave of absence when performing military service and are entitled to the non-seniority rights accorded other individuals on non-military leaves of absence.

Service members will be able to use accrued vacation or annual leave while

performing military duty. (Information for this article was obtained from the USERRA Act of 1994.)

Helpful websites

USERRA

<http://www.osc.gov/userra.htm>

Family and Medical Leave Act

<http://www.dol.gov/esa/whd/fmla/>

Chaplain's Corner: All jobs are important

Story by Chaplain (Lt. Col.) Bill Willis, Sr.
Wing chaplain

"What does the worker gain from his toil? I have seen the burden God has laid on men. He has made everything beautiful in its time. He has also set eternity in the hearts of men; yet they cannot fathom what God has done from beginning to end. I know that there is nothing better for men than to be happy and do good while they live. That every man may eat and drink, and find satisfaction in all his toil – this is the gift of God." Ecclesiastes 3:9-13

Labor Day is an interesting federal holiday. Its purpose is to celebrate and affirm workers who toil all year long. Every worker contributes to the good of our society. Every job is important.

For those of us who work and serve in the Air Force Reserve, we often have to balance the demands of our civilian jobs with our military service. Many of us have supportive employers who help

make that balancing act easier, and we need to thank them for that support.

The tension between jobs and duty may very well be magnified for all of us as we approach the anniversary of Sept. 11. We know our jobs and our families are important. It is that importance that helps remind us that our service in the Air Force Reserve is also important.

I believe God also affirms the importance of all the work we do – civilian and military. I know God affirms the importance of our families.

My prayer is that God will bless each of you and your families in the days, months and years ahead as we celebrate Labor Day and remember the anniversary of Sept. 11.

917th Wing Training Schedule

September 7-8, 2002

Time	Event	Location
Saturday		
0630-0700	Sign-in	Assigned unit
0700	Wing staff meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
0700	Intro -- all newcomers	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0700	Physical exam (flyers)	Base hospital
0730	Detailed physical exam (non-flyers)	Base hospital
0730 -1000	Body fat measurement	Family practice
0730 -1430	Eyeglass inserts	Bldg. 4845 (by hospital)
0745	Firearms training	Firing range
0800	Routine physical exam	Base theater
0800 & 1300	Initial Warfare (appointment only)	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 329
0800 & 1300	Chem Warfare Refresher	Hangar 7
0900	Anti-terrorism training	Bldg. 6803, Rm 227
0900 - 1400	Immunizations	Base hospital, 1st floor
0930 & 1030	Family readiness briefing	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 17
1000	Unit deployment managers	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1000	First sergeants' meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1300	Flightline drivers training	Bldg. 6825, Rm. 243
1330	MSS Commander's Call	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1550-1615	Sign-out 1550--LG 1600-MXS 1610--CES, MSS, WG	
Sunday		
0630-0700	Sign in	Assigned Unit
0730	Information Management Training	Bldg. 4238, STARBASE
0730	Human Relations	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0745	Firearms training	Firing range
0800	UCI meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
0800-1000	Dental Class 3 profile reviews	Base dental clinic
0800-1300	Eyeglass inserts	Bldg. 4845 (by hospital)
0800	Initial Warfare (appointment only)	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 329
0800	Career advisor training	Bldg. 6815, T-Net
0800	Chem. Warfare Refresher	Hangar 7
0830	Substance Abuse	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
0900	Catholic Mass	Base Chapel 2
0900	Unit advisory council	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
0945	EO First Duty Station Part 1	Bldg. 4714, 3rd Floor
1000-1030	Protestant services	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 227
1030	Family readiness briefing	Bldg. 4713, Rm. 17
1100 & 1200	Aerobics class	Base gym (aerobics rm.)
1230	EOC testing	Bldg. 4314, 3rd floor
1300	EO First Duty Station Part 2	Bldg. 4714, 3rd Floor
1300	Support Group SITS meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1400	SORTS meeting	Bldg. 6803, Rm. 105
1500	Wing commander's call	A-10 hangar
1550-1615	Sign-out 1550--LG 1600-MXS 1610--CES, MSS, WG	

Know anyone who is looking for a recruiter?

Barksdale AFB, La.

Master Sgt. Joe Menna
Master Sgt. Don Copeland
Tech. Sgt. Gary Johnson
1-800-241-4071

Monroe, La.

318-323-1898

Texarkana, Texas

Staff Sgt. Matt Lucas
903-223-7030

Shreveport, La.

Master Sgt. Ellen Shaheed
318-683-0331

Little Rock AFB, Ark.

Tech. Sgt. TeNeuss Land
501-987-7188

Mesquite/Tyler, Texas

Tech. Sgt. Clark Fitzpatrick
972-681-6384/903-534-8618

If you are interested in becoming a recruiter, call Chief Master Sgt. Larry Woods, 917th Wing Recruiting at 318-456-9751.

SERVICES

Military Personnel Flight

Bldg. 6803, Room 140, ext. 9205

Saturday

7 - 11 a.m. - Newcomers in-processing.
11 a.m. - 4 p.m. - All customer service functions (open during lunch)

Sunday

7 - 8 a.m. - Closed for training.
8 a.m. - 2 p.m. - All customer service functions (open during lunch)
2:30 - 4 p.m. - Closed for training.

Monday - Friday

7 a.m. - 4 p.m. All services

NOTE: Customer Service functions include in & out processing, ID cards, DEERS, DDForm93s, SGLI, Vehicle Decals, Record Reviews, etc.

Base Billeting

Bldg. 5155, 456-3091/3092

Open 24 hours a day, seven days a week (reservations required).

Chaplain

Bldg. 6803, Room 239, 456-9179

Friday - Sunday - 7 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Chaplain DeVaul (318) 208-8362
Chaplain Willis (318) 208-8360

Red River Dining Hall

Bldg. 4631

Breakfast - 5:30 - 6:30 a.m.
Lunch MS - 11 - 1 47FS - 11:45
WG - 11 MSS - 11:45 93 BS - 11:15
CES - noon SFS - 12:15

NOTE: You must show ID card, newcomer's letter or DD form 1172.

Family Readiness

Bldg. 4713

Saturday & Sunday - 8 - 11 a.m.

Military drivers license

Military drivers license issue is available on the main UTA in Bldg. 6825, Rm. 240. Issue hours:
Saturday & Sunday, noon - 2 p.m.

Lodging

For information on official or space "A" lodging call 1-888-AF-LODGE. Once the automated system answers, key in the first three letters of the base you are trying to reach.

Military Pay

Main UTA Schedule

Sat. 7 a.m. - 4 p.m., Sun. 1 p.m. - 4 p.m.

Gov. Credit Card Service

Bldg. 6803, Room 203, 456-9546

Mon.-Fri. 6 a.m. - 2:30 p.m.

Main UTA - 7 a.m. - 4 p.m. (Saturday only)

Military clothing issue

Wednesday 10 - 11:30 a.m.

Main UTA Saturday 10 a.m. - noon and 1 - 3 p.m.

Show your boss the 917th Wing during Employer Appreciation Day

Saturday, November 2, 2002

Let your employer experience the mission of the 917th Wing, the Air Force Reserve and your role in the Wing first hand.

Air Force reservists assigned here will once again have the opportunity to invite their civilian employers to visit Barksdale and take a tour of the Wing. Your employer will be given a briefing of the Wing mission and a tour of its functions, and will be shown an A-10 and B-52 static display.

This tour is not for family members or friends, but for employers to gain a better knowledge of the Air Force Reserve and what their employees do at the Wing.

A schedule of events will be mailed to your employer, providing details on the event. Deadline for nominations is Oct. 6.

Please print legibly or type all information requested.

Employer's name: _____

His or her position title: _____

Business/company name: _____

Company address: _____

City, state, zip code: _____

Employer's daytime telephone number: () _____

Your name and rank: _____

Squadron of assignment: _____

Your daytime telephone number: () _____

I understand that I may nominate only one individual to participate and that the nominated individual must be in my chain of command.

Your signature: _____

Return this form to 917WG/PA, 1000 Davis Ave. E., Bldg. 6803, Barksdale AFB, LA 71110-2287; fax number is (318) 456-7444; or e-mail the required information to 917WG.PA@barksdale.af.mil.



UTA Schedule

Main

Sept. 7-8
Oct. 5-6
Nov. 2-3
Dec. 7-8
Jan. 4-5, 2003
Feb. 1-2
March 1-2
April 5-6
May 17-18
June 7-8
July 12-13
Aug. 2-3
Sept. 6-7

Alternate

Sept. 21-22
Oct. 19-20
Nov. 16-17
No alternate
Jan. 11-12, 2003
Feb. 8-9
March 15-16
April 12-13
May 3-4
June 21-22
July 19-20
Aug. 16-17
Sept. 13-14

917th Wing
1000 Davis Ave. East
Barksdale AFB, LA 71110-2287

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